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Approved For Release 2000/08/30 : CIA-RDP80R01443R000100080024-8

Office of Current Intelligence
Indications Staff
10 March 1953

Reported Interception of US Aircraft over Germany

1. The US 12th Air Force reports that MIG-15 aircraft attacked two USAF F-84 jet fighters at 1008Z, 10 March 1953. One F-84 was shot down, the other landed safely.
2. Known facts:
 1. One F-84 was shot down, the pilot bailing out successfully. The aircraft crashed at 49° 05'N, 12° 25'E, about 22 nautical miles from the Czech border near Cham, US zone Germany.
 2. The other F-84 landed at Fuerstenfeldbruck, a USAF airfield near Munich.
 3. The US aircraft were on a routine patrol.
3. Pilot interrogation:
 1. The US aircraft were attacked at 49° 15'N, 12° 25'E, about 16 nautical miles from the Czech border inside the US Zone.
 2. The F-84 pilots sighted MIG-15's about 3,000 feet above them, circled to investigate, and thereupon found MIG-15's on their tails.
 3. One USAF pilot reports attack by five MIG-15's of the Czech Air Force, the other reports attack by two.
4. There is as yet no information [REDACTED] to confirm or refute the statements made by the pilots, although additional information [REDACTED] is expected.
5. US Air Forces Europe terms this incident a "possible violation of US Zone of Germany airspace by Czechoslovak aircraft." US Air Force intelligence analysts have speculated: (a) that this may reflect reaction by Czech fighters to sighting of US aircraft on a heading suggesting an intended overflight of Czechoslovakia; (b) that this is a retaliation following the recent defection of a Polish MIG-15 pilot with his aircraft.
6. There is no information to indicate that this is other than a local incident in a border area where border patrols, warnings and accusations have been intensified since last summer.

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